

Cruise the Passage of

Peter the Great



Moscow

Aboard MS Krasin

St. Petersburg

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AUGUST 18-30, 2010

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Exclusive Highlights

- **Unpack just once!** Journey into the heart of Russia on this cruise between **St. Petersburg** and **Moscow**. Discover the **serene Russian countryside**, a region of beautiful scenery and wooden architecture largely untouched by tourism.
- Take advantage of a unique **cruising experience** aboard the **MS Krasin**.
- Enjoy early entrance into the **State Hermitage Museum**.
- See the exquisite Amber Room during a visit to **Catherine's Palace**.
- Attend a **cultural performance** at one of St. Petersburg's beautiful theaters.
- Admire the traditional architecture in **Yaroslavl** and **Uglich**, two cities on Russia's famous Golden Ring.
- Fully explore Moscow with specially arranged visits to the **Kremlin**, the Russian capital's iconic citadel, the **Armory Museum** with its magnificent displays such as the priceless Fabergé Eggs, and **Red Square**, site of St. Basil's Cathedral.
- Participate in **exciting seminars led by local experts** who will enhance your understanding of "Mother Russia."

In the early 1700s, Peter the Great, with his immense physical strength, unerring vision and often ruthless tactics, transformed Russia into the greatest nation in Europe. Follow his historic footsteps as you sail aboard the **MS Krasin**, one of Russia's premier vessels, exploring Russian waterways lined with medieval villages and charming wooden dachas, or country houses, of national heroes. Delight in the beauty of St. Petersburg from the State Hermitage Museum, once the Winter Palace of the czars, to impressive fortresses and ornate avenues. In Moscow, admire the Kremlin, stroll through the city's heart in bustling Red Square and visit St. Basil's Cathedral and the Armory Museum. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to experience the magnificence of Russia.

Above: Church of the Spilled Blood, St. Petersburg



St. Basil's
Cathedral in Red
Square, Moscow

Howdy Ags!

Prepare to embark on a cultural odyssey from the palaces of St. Petersburg to the onion domes of Moscow as you ***Cruise the Passage of Peter the Great***. Join a group of like-minded travelers as you explore the enchanting northern waterways of Russia, seeing the country's legendary cities and hidden treasures with the guidance of local experts. Our itinerary has been carefully researched to provide **priceless cultural experiences** along the way.

As the first Western company to operate group tour programs in Russia, AHI opened many of Russia's hidden treasures to Western access. Throughout your journey, you'll enjoy **preferred access to popular attractions** and an **exclusive educational program** that will deepen your understanding of Russia.

Cruise the Volga, Neva and Svir rivers aboard the ***MS Krasin***, a "floating hotel" that combines comfortable accommodations and Old World service. Throughout your journey, you'll benefit from the **value and convenience** of group travel while retaining the **flexibility** to direct your own experience. A dedicated team of travel specialists will assist you with all your needs before departure and help you customize your trip with extensions or special arrangements.

Don't miss this opportunity to see the wonders of Russia. Space is limited for your ultimate comfort, ***so make your reservation today!***

Gig 'Em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87 Ph.D.
Traveling Aggies
The Association of Former Students

Great trip, wonderful experiences and the groups are exceptional.

Tom Elting '55

Previously we have traveled independently. This trip was the first tour we have ever taken and it exceeded our expectations. The itinerary, the staff, and the arrangements made through the Traveling Aggies were all very positive experiences.

Wally '57 & Punky
Penberthy

Travel the World and spread the Spirit of Texas A&M. Join the fun and travel with the Association of Former Students Travel Program..

Roger '52 & Helen
Jenswold

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Cruise the heart of Russia



Above: Kremlin, Moscow

Right: Typical gold-domed cathedral, Moscow

In oval: State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

UNESCO

This program features four UNESCO *World Heritage List* sites: the **Kremlin and Red Square, Moscow (1990)**; **Historic Center of Yaroslavl (2005)**; **Kizhi Pogost (1990)**; and **Historic Center of St. Petersburg (1990)**.

These were designated based on their universal scenic, historic, artistic or scientific value.

MOSCOW

Moscow is a living monument to more than 800 years of Russian history and culture. Explore the Kremlin, with its golden domes, lustrous cathedrals and treasures of the czars, including the priceless Fabergé Eggs displayed in the Armory Museum. More examples of Russian art from the 11th century to today are housed in the State Tretyakov Gallery. Visit Red Square, home of the onion-domed St. Basil's Cathedral. Walk in the footsteps of the czars along Tverskaya Street, formerly known as Gorky Street, which was once part of the direct route between Moscow and St. Petersburg.

***NOTE:** The sequence of the destinations listed may not reflect the direction of your particular dates.*

*For specific information regarding your itinerary, please refer to the **Included Features and Itinerary** sections in this brochure.*



Left: Street scene in Moscow

Uglich

This tranquil town, brimming with historic Russian architecture, originated in the 10th century and is one of the oldest on the upper Volga River. Of special interest is the poignant church of Tsarevich. Covered with brightly colored tiles and crowned with sky-blue domes, this church is built on the site of the tragic death of Ivan the Terrible's son, Dimitry. Located nearby is the five-domed Transfiguration Cathedral, now a part of the Uglich Museum of History and Art. Uglich is also home to the small, charming Prince's Palace, which dates to the 15th century.

Yaroslavl

Stretching for 18 miles along both banks of the Volga River, Yaroslavl is an important port that was founded in the 11th century by Prince Yaroslav the Wise. The highlight of Yaroslavl is its magnificent 12th-century Spassky Monastery. This vast complex of majestic cathedrals, an elegant rotunda, towers and remnants of a trading center, played a prominent role in the political and economic development of the city and acted as a cultural touchstone in the Russian state.



Below: Church of St Dimitry in the Kremlin of Uglich

Lower: Magnificent interior of Spassky Monastery, Yaroslavl



RUSSIAN FOLK ART

Matryoshka, the most popular Russian souvenir, are an intricately decorated series of wooden dolls designed to fit inside one another, from the largest to the tiniest, and has long served as a symbol of the country. The word *matryoshka* is derived from the name Matryona, the most popular girl's name in Russia for many centuries. As a general rule, *matryoshkas* range from two to 24 dolls in a set, but some of the most rare and intricate sets can include from 48 to 60 individual dolls! Wood without knots, cracks or fissures from birch, larch or linden trees is thoughtfully chosen. The dollmaker begins by carving the smallest doll, sometimes smaller than a fingernail. The carver then creates the other dolls, gradually making them larger. The dolls are then passed to the painter who "dresses them" in bright garments and colorful motifs of traditional Russian legends and fairy tales.



Upper: Chariot of Victory and Triumphal Arch, General Staff Building on Dvortsovaya Place, St. Petersburg

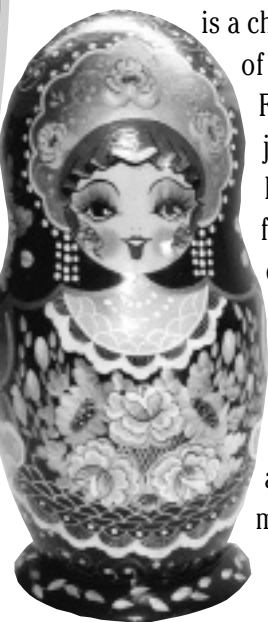
Above: Kirill-Belosersk Monastery, Goritsy

Right: Musicians and dancers in folk costume, Kizhi Island

Goritsy

The peaceful farming community of Goritsy, once closed to Western visitors, is a charming example of rural Russian life.

From Goritsy, journey to the Kirill-Belosersk Monastery, founded in the 14th century. Its fortress-like edifice and picturesque lake setting conceal its impressive interior and artifact-filled museum.



Kizhi Island

The beautiful blue waters of Lake Onega surround Kizhi Island, where fantastic structures create a fairy-tale atmosphere. The island's open-air museum reveals 18th- and 19th-century homes and churches. All of the buildings stand in testimony to the craftsmanship and simplicity of wooden architecture built without the use of nails. The Church of the Transfiguration, built in 1714, is the ultimate flight of the imagination; its 22 onion-shaped domes of varying sizes change hues with the passing sun. Construction of the domes required more than 30,000 aspen shingles.



Top: Griboedova Canal with Church of Spilled Blood in background, St. Petersburg

Left: Sculpture Hall, State Hermitage Museum



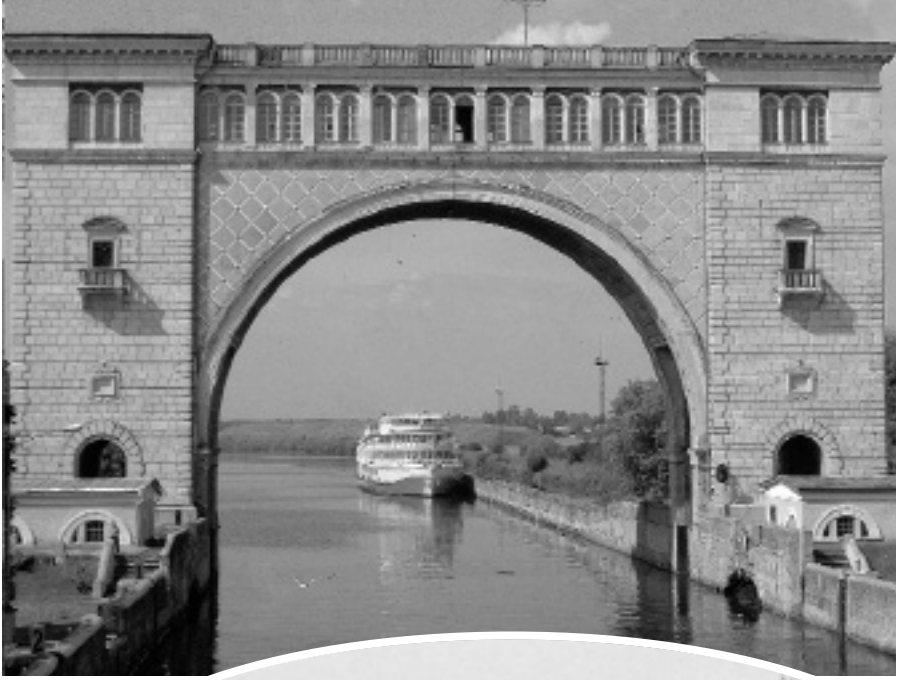
St. Petersburg

Majestic, gold-domed cathedrals and serene, canal-crossed streets combine to make St. Petersburg one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It was founded by Peter the Great more than 300 years ago as a link to Western Europe and is now one of the greatest cultural centers in Russia. The prestigious State Hermitage Museum, the city's most famous landmark, contains nearly three million works of art. Walk along Nevsky Prospekt, with its shops and churches, and see the Admiralty, one of St. Petersburg's first buildings. At the fork of the Neva River, admire the impressive Peter and Paul Fortress, whose construction marked the founding of the city in 1703. Visit the opulent interior of St. Isaac's Cathedral and the fabulous gardens and fountains of Peterhof, the palace of Peter the Great. See Catherine's Palace and the recreation of the famed Amber Room, which disappeared during World War II.

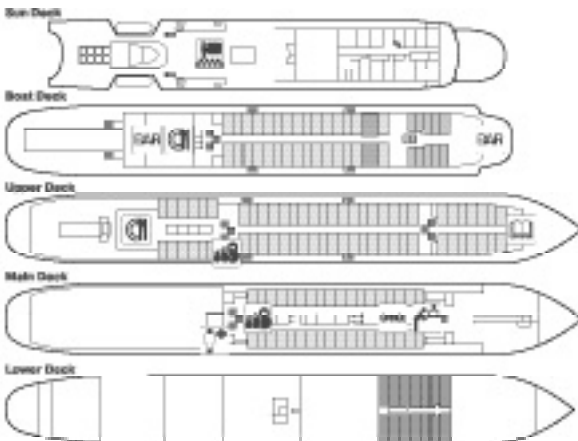
All AHI River Cruises feature:

- **First-class river cruise ship** providing all outward-facing accommodations; friendly, personalized service; and exclusively designed sailing itineraries.
- **Pleasant dining aboard ship** featuring special extras such as local wines and expertly prepared culinary specialties of the region.
- **Expert local guides** leading thoughtfully designed excursions to enrich your experience of the area.
- **A comprehensive, illustrated guide book** created exclusively for this AHI Russia cruise program describes, kilometer-by-kilometer, the storied culture and history of the towns, villages and sites.
- **Speaker's Corner program** showcasing local lecturers who share their insights with you for a unique, in-depth learning experience.

MS Krasin • Premier Sailing Vessel



Your home during your cruise of Russia's waterways is the *MS Krasin*. Renovated in 2009, it boasts numerous amenities designed to ensure your comfort. From delicious cuisine in the restaurant to the friendly hospitality of the ship's staff, your experience will offer a level of service and luxury the czars would have envied! Enjoy performances of local musicians, search for that perfect memento at the souvenir shop, stroll the ship's promenades or relax on deck and admire the lovely countryside as you sail past. Each evening, return to the comfort of your tastefully appointed cabin—a relaxing end to an exciting day!



Reserve your Passage of Peter the Great today!

For Office Use Only: B #: _____ Date: _____
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 Phone: 979-845-7514 Fax: 979-845-9263 Toll Free: 800-633-7514

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Yes, please e-mail me information about special travel opportunities.

Sharing with _____ (Form sent separately).

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

(1) _____

(2) _____

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:
Land Program

- I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.
- Please call me/us to discuss my/our air options.

Cabin category desired: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

- I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$1,295 (limited availability).
- I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Cruise and Air Program

- I/we reserve the Cruise Program and request the Air Program to St. Petersburg, Russia, with a return from Moscow, Russia, to depart from:

 Departure City

- Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

Please note: Air prices will be sent to you with your Reservation Confirmation and air schedule sent at 90 days before departure. International flight arrangements can be cancelled with no obligation up to 75 days before departure. Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by June 4, 2010 (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard or Visa. Make checks payable to AHI International.

AHI Travel has assumed all costs for the printing and distribution of this promotion. This program is exclusively arranged by AHI Travel, 6400 Shafer Court, Rosemont, IL 60018. No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by our tour supplier.

Enclosed is a deposit of _____ (\$600 per person required) to reserve _____ place(s).

- Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.
- Charge my deposit to: MasterCard Visa Expires _____/_____/_____

Card # _____

 (Signature as it appears on credit card)

Please note: Any payment to AHI International constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the Cancellation terms.

NOT INCLUDED-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions; wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

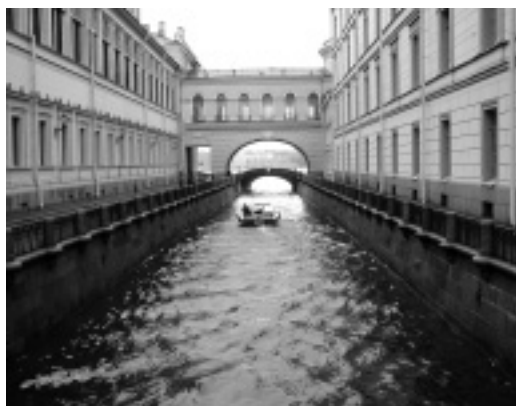
MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL-The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

AIR TRANSPORTATION-The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare. VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

CANCELLATION-In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person cancellation fee. Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75 days to 30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; Cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.

BAGGAGE-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

RESPONSIBILITY-AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association act only as agents for the suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations or other service and have no responsibility for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property or accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature howsoever caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby. Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in good faith and based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, are subject to change at or before the time of departure. No revisions of the printed itinerary or its included features are anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary, with the mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. If the entire program is cancelled for any reason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers and accepts the terms of this contract. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the company(ies) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip.



Winter Canal, one of the most poetic corners of the "old St. Petersburg."

CRUISE PROGRAM

August 19-30, 2010

Cat.-Deck	Full Price	Special Savings	Alumni Price
D-Lower	\$3,245	\$250	\$2,995*
C-Main	\$3,545	\$250	\$3,295*
B-Upper	\$3,745	\$250	\$3,495*
A-Boat	\$3,945	\$250	\$3,695*

*Special Alumni Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT and Port Taxes are an additional \$225 per person.

All prices quoted are per person, based on double occupancy (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional \$1,295 (limited availability).

AIR PROGRAM

August 18-30, 2010

For your convenience, AHI offers a flexible Air Program featuring special air fares available at an additional cost in conjunction with the Land Program.

AHI has designated specific Group Air Schedules for this departure utilizing round-trip scheduled jet service from North America to Russia. Those participating on these flights will enjoy round-trip motorcoach transfers from airport to the ship, including baggage handling. Prices are dependent upon dates, air routes and class of service chosen and will be reflected on your Reservation Confirmation, which will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation. Air schedules will be sent with your final invoice approximately 90 days before departure. Prices quoted to you will include all Domestic and Foreign Governmental Airport Departure Taxes and Fees and any applicable Fuel Surcharges. AHI ticketed passengers will also receive Automatic \$250,000 Flight Insurance, subject to policy terms.

ITINERARY

Day 1	.....	Depart Gateway City
Day 2	.....	St. Petersburg, Russia
Day 3	.....	St. Petersburg
Day 4	.....	St. Petersburg
Day 5	.....	St. Petersburg
Day 6	.....	Mandrogji
Day 7	.....	Kizhi Island
Day 8	.....	Goritsy
Day 9	.....	Yaroslavl
Day 10	.....	Uglich/ Cruise the Volga River
Day 11	.....	Moscow
Day 12	.....	Moscow
Day 13	.....	Return to Gateway City



Old-style Public Clock under the General Army Staff Building Arch, Saint Petersburg

INCLUDED FEATURES

First, Three Nights in St. Petersburg

- Indulge in the comforts of your “floating hotel,” the **MS Krasin**, while you explore the beautiful, pastel architecture of this **Capital of the Czars**.
- Gather with fellow travelers at a festive **Captain’s Welcome and Dinner**.
- **Enjoy an extensive meal program**, including 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 11 dinners, plus appropriate in-flight meal service.
- Discover the city’s magnificent architecture, and visit **Peter and Paul Fortress, Peterhof** and **St. Isaac’s Cathedral**.
- Explore the Amber Room in the baroque **Catherine’s Palace**.
- View the riches of the **State Hermitage Museum**, and enjoy early access before the museum opens to the public.
- Attend a **cultural performance** at one of St. Petersburg’s beautiful theaters.

Next, the Passage of Peter the Great

- **Cruise for five nights**, visiting fascinating **Kizhi Island** along with the old Russian village of **Goritsy**. Discover two of the jewels of Russia’s Golden Ring, **Uglich** and **Yaroslavl** in the cultural heart of Russia.

- Enjoy a **Russian vodka tasting** aboard the ship.
- Go ashore in **Mandrogi** for a traditional Russian barbecue lunch and folklore show.
- Sail **Lake Ladoga** and **Lake Onega**. Then, cruise on the **Neva, Svir** and **Volga rivers** as the ship is raised and lowered through a series of locks.

Finally, Two Nights in Moscow

- Relax aboard the **MS Krasin**, and discover Moscow, the fascinating, ancient capital of Russia.
- Attend a special **Captain’s Farewell Party** aboard ship.
- Visit the **Kremlin**, the **Armory Museum**, **Red Square** and the **State Tretyakov Gallery**.

Many Included Extras

- Services of an experienced **AHI International Travel and Cruise Director** throughout your trip.
- Consultation services of a **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- **Tipping** of excursion guides and drivers.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in your planning.
- Complimentary travel wallet.





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Top to bottom:
Equestrian statue of Peter the Great, St. Petersburg
Russian folk dancers
Triumphal Arch, St. Petersburg
Cover photo:
Peterhof, St. Petersburg



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RUSSIA10 37

A word about your Tour Operator

AHI Travel is the premier operator of deluxe travel programs sponsored by alumni associations. Their experienced, professional staff has offered the highest level of service in **innovative travel programs since 1962.**

In AHI Travel's care, you can rely on:

- **An exceptional travel value.** It would be impossible for an independent traveler to arrange all these unique experiences, inclusions and services at a comparable price.
- **Unique access to local sites.** Take advantage of their 47 years of travel experience to gain preferred entrance to popular sites and to uncover the region's hidden treasures.
- **Flexibility and customization.** They will help you tailor your dream trip with add-ons and extensions, while free time during the trip allows you to pursue your own interests.
- **Safety and security.** In a country where you might not know the language or culture, their professional staff is on hand to ease your way and get you any help you need.
- **Full endorsement by the USTOA.** This professional association safeguards consumers' deposits and payments with a *\$1 Million Traveler's Assistance Program.*



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